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COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

First session
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Agenda item 16

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Denis A. Davis

Action taken by the Committee

Flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to
develop the mineral resources of developing countries

(Agenda item 11 (a))

At the ____ meeting on ____ April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

The Committee welcomes the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of facilitating the flow of financial resources and transfer of technology to develop the mineral resources of developing countries (E/C.7/1993/9) and underlines the importance of multilateral and bilateral aid programmes for developing the mineral resources of developing countries, as well as the growing importance of private foreign investment. Special reference is made to chapter II, sections A, B and C, of the report.

The Committee recommends:

That the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to update his report (E/C.7/1993/9) for the second session of the Committee, taking into account the special needs of the economies in transition as well as requirements for environmental protection. The

report should also take into account comments made by the members of the Committee on this issue, devote special attention to the collection and adequate presentation of geological and mining information and to conditions of mineral rights and country profile (including political and commercial risks); and take into account these items in existing and future projects of the mineral programmes of the United Nations, and also collect and include relevant information available from non-governmental organizations.

Action taken by the Committee

Issues concerning the more efficient use of materials, their recycling, their replacement by high-technology substitutes, and the transfer of such technologies

(Agenda item 11 (b))

At the _____ meeting, on _____ April 1993, the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement on behalf of the Committee:

Mineral-producing developing countries and the economies in transition cannot afford to be oblivious to the substitution that is taking place and also the trend in increased use of recycled mineral products in the major markets which they serve. The demand for mineral products in the industrialized countries continues on a declining trend as a result of a process of "dematerialization", i.e., replacement of traditional materials with new ones and with technologies less intensive in mineral products.

In view of this development, the Committee recommends that the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development continue to produce "forecast analyses" of the demand of major mineral products, taking into account as much as possible the trends and technologies mentioned above. The forecast scenarios, prepared with the cooperation of developing countries, can be useful instruments for policy makers of developing countries. As a complementary activity, the United Nations system could also promote international cooperation in research and development of new materials and the effective transfer of such technologies to the developing countries.

In view of the important and potentially negative effects that the reduction of demand from industrialized countries may have on developing countries and economies in transition, the Committee recommends that a study be conducted on the long-term effects of the more efficient use of mineral products, their recycling and their replacement by high-technology substitutes and on measures to be taken to improve the situation of developing countries, including capacity-building, transfer and adaptation of technologies relative to new materials production and processing.

The Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be requested by the Economic and Social Council to prepare, in cooperation with relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, the study mentioned above.

The Committee hopes that assistance would be provided by donor countries or organizations in the preparation of the study. In this connection, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to pursue, through the Economic and Social Council, with the Governments of Italy and other industrialized countries, ways to provide assistance in carrying out the study.
